

OLD BURG GOING AHEAD

New Industries Established, Old Plants Enlarged and Much Building Done.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
FREDERICKSBURG, VA., December 28.—The year just closing has been one of the best that Fredericksburg has ever experienced, generally speaking. The city has grown in every way. Among the new industries established is the large pants factory. Old factories have been enlarged and their facilities increased. Many new residences have been erected, and others are now in course of construction, a number of them being on an elaborate scale.

Public improvements have been made and taxable values have largely increased. Fredericksburg draws its trade from a large surrounding country, and with increased business the stores have been modernized and improved until they now compare favorably with the large cities, and the merchants are thoroughly up-to-date. Contracts aggregating \$40,000 for a public building to be erected in Fredericksburg during the coming year.

The city has now in contemplation the erection of a large, modern public school building at an early date, and in addition to the street paving and granolithic pavements which have been laid, many new improvements to streets and sidewalks along this line are being considered.

The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad has purchased considerable real estate here, and it is said that the company will spend \$500,000 here for building new passenger and freight depot, extending its tracks, extending its yards and for other improvements during the coming spring.

The Fredericksburg Power Company, which is now owned by the Gould Inland Waterways and Power Company, is building large dams on the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers, above this city, involving the expenditure of large sums of money, the object being to concentrate electric power to be used for lighting and other purposes here, and for power furnished to the city of Richmond, Washington and Intermediate points.

The United States government is spending large sums for the improvement of the Rappahannock River at and below Fredericksburg.

Another feature that has contributed largely to the upbuilding of this section of the State is the large number of newcomers who are settling in and near Fredericksburg. Many of them are men of means, and all of them are desirable and valuable citizens. These new residents have come from the North, West and South. A large number have purchased estates in the surrounding country, not far from the city. Some of them have built new mansions, and all of them have improved the lands and made the farms more valuable. Many have located in the city, and all seem pleased with their new homes and the business extended a cordial welcome by our people. Much interest is felt in the application of the Gould interests for a charter for the Fredericksburg and Southern Railway, and it is the general impression that the establishment of this line will be a great advantage to the counties through which it passes and to Fredericksburg.

Altogether, Fredericksburg has cause for much satisfaction in reviewing the past twelve months, and its hopes for the future are high and bright.

WINCHESTER IS OPTIMISTIC

The Old Town Believes Coming Year Will Be Brightest Ever.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WINCHESTER, VA., December 28.—The prospects for the year 1908 in Winchester and the county of Frederick are hopefully regarded by the business men and manufacturers of the section, although a short time since, it was feared that the prevailing financial depression would directly affect local conditions. It is now believed that the effect will not altogether be harmful.

The city has but two very large manufacturing concerns, and they both have excellent prospects, while those of lesser magnitude bid fair to reap the same good results as heretofore. There is more money in the banks than ever. The farmers have had fine crops, and are so situated that they have not been forced to sell their wheat, corn, etc., at a sacrifice, and will get good prices for the same.

As Winchester depends to a great extent upon contiguous farmers, and as it seems that the farming element is loyal to Winchester's business men, there is every reason to believe that the old town will be as successful and prosperous in 1908, if not more so, than 1907.

WYTHEVILLE PROSPEROUS

Merchants, Manufacturers and Banks Have All Done Well.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WYTHEVILLE, December 28.—The year just closing has been one of general prosperity for the town of Wytheville. The manufacturers, banks, and merchants have all done successful and satisfactory business, unaffected by the recent stringency in the financial world. The Christmas trade of the merchants has been up to the average of previous years, and in some instances greater than ever before.

The manufacturers have been working full time, and unable in many cases to meet their orders promptly.

During the year there have been quite an amount of building, notably the Wytheville Foundry Company has completed its plant, near the depot, and has the plant in full operation.

Rich Brothers, new furniture warehouses, on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Main Streets, into which they have just moved, built of concrete blocks, is a large and handsome structure, greatly improving that section of the town.

Among the private residences built this year are Mr. C. V. Heuser's and Mrs. J. L. Gleaves's, both on Tazewell

Street. These residences, in style and appointments, are of the most modern type of suburban cottages, and add greatly to the attractiveness of the section in which they are built. In addition to the above there have been built during the year quite a number of less pretentious but comfortable cottages in different portions of the suburbs, all of which are occupied.

Contracts have been let for the building of five or six fine residences in the spring.

The public improvements of the town for the year embraces the establishment of a sewer system, under a franchise granted by the town to the Wytheville Sewer Company.

CULPEPER GOES FORWARD

New Business Houses Erected During the Year, and Business Active.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
CULPEPER, VA., December 28.—There are few towns in Virginia which have made more substantial progress during the past year than Culpeper. Every business house and dwelling is occupied, and others, both for residences and business, are now being constructed. The year has seen improvements of the past year is a large hardware business and a number of mercantile houses now in successful operation. Then there is the large ice plant built before, but greatly added to since last August, which supplies the ice both to this and the surrounding towns as far north as Alexandria and as far south as Charlottesville.

The receipts at the post-office are now in excess of what they have ever been, and there has been a general increase of its business, notably in the money-order and registry departments.

A contract with the electric plant which supplies the corporation, erected recently, has been entered into to supply more and lights for the corporation and for the depot houses, and the outside of the Southern and Chesapeake and Ohio Railways stations.

The mercantile business has progressed most satisfactorily, and there have been no failures or forced sales to mark the closed year.

The banks are all prospering and continue to operate on a safe, increasing and lucrative basis.

All the various institutions of the town are now in active operation, and have met with marked success during the year.

The town is efficiently policed, and the health of the community is exceptionally good, Culpeper being reckoned at Washington as the second healthiest place in the United States.

Culpeper being nearly a junction of two railway companies, scarcely an hour passes without both passenger and freight trains running north and south.

No location anywhere offers finer opportunities to the man of business or the seeker after health or pleasure.

MANASSAS DOING WELL

Better Business Than Merchants Have Ever Known—Much Building.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
MANASSAS, VA., December 28.—The leading merchants and business men of the town say that business has been better in Manassas during the year 1907 than in any year previous since they have been in business. Not only are the leading merchants doing a large volume of business than ever before, but the people are demanding a better class of goods than they have been buying heretofore.

Houses aggregating in value many thousands of dollars have been erected this year, and there are now several in the course of construction. The Baptist Church has erected a new building at a cost of \$6,000. The Episcopal Church is erecting a new church within the next year a large, four-story brick building, in order that its increasing business may be taken care of. This company, through one of its salesmen, Mr. B. C. Taylor, in fifteen days during the month of September sold twenty-five tons of cocoanut candy in Southern Virginia and North Carolina.

During the coming year the National Bank of Manassas will build a handsome banking house on the lot recently purchased from Mrs. A. H. Hyson.

A Business Men's League has recently been organized, and this organization hopes to bring several new enterprises to the town during the year 1908. Manassas is a fine location for a good flouring mill, and the league hopes to get one located here within a short time. The town has spent several thousand dollars this year in laying concrete sidewalks, and the work will be continued next spring. Manassas is growing and the surrounding country is improving.

BLACKSTONE IS BUOYANT

Closing Year Has Been One of Unusually Active and Progress.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BLACKSTONE, VA., December 28.—Taken upon the whole, the closing year has been one of unusual activity and progress in the life of Blackstone. Of course, during the past two months there has been a depression, felt here as elsewhere, prevailing in the whole country, but it is safe to say that what was done during the first ten months was equal to any previous year's record, and perhaps beyond that.

In the way of new enterprises for this year is the completion of a new \$1,000 high school and the voting of \$25,000 in bonds for sewer improvements. The work of constructing this latter will be begun in the spring and pushed to completion, since all surveys and other arrangements have been made. A new hotel, costing about \$15,000, has also been built during the year. In the matter of constructive work, it is estimated by the house contractors that fully \$200,000 worth of new buildings have been erected this year. Aside from the special buildings mentioned, there is a general completion on the main corner of the town, which will cost, when completed, about \$12,000; also a new church for the Baptists, about \$12,000 or \$14,000.

"Grit" is one of the characteristics

SCENES IN BUSINESS LIFE OF CREWE



Carolina Avenue.

of Blackstone business men, and when approached concerning the outlook at this time, they all give a very hopeful view. They admit a depression just now, but say it cannot last, and that they are making preparations for as good business, and expect to get it, next year as this year. If one is to judge the future by the past, they are not reckoning without their host.

HAS HELD HER OWN

Depression in Warrenton, But Year's Business Up to Record.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WARRENTON, VA., December 28.—From a commercial point of view, while on the whole the year just closing has been attended with increased prosperity along all lines, yet it has been a most variable year, and business conditions were epidemic. The fall season opened with bright prospects, and October business attained a height unprecedented, but this, to the great surprise and disappointment of all, was to be of short duration. The financial conditions throughout the country stagnated business to such an extent that comparisons from November 1st to the middle of December with the corresponding season in 1906 showed a decline. From this latter date until Christmas the business done exceeded that of the same period of last year, and the month as a whole may hold its own with December, 1906.

With these drawbacks it is gratifying, though, to know that, as stated in the beginning of this article, that take the year as an entirety, it will surpass 1906 in business achievements. On a serious scale, that business has held its own, and has been the slow collections. It has seriously hampered business, and probably is one of the main causes of the slump from time to time. The unrest and uncertainty is marked, but business men as a rule are hopeful, and look towards the future with an optimistic view.

COLUMBIA'S ENTERPRISES

All Have Had a Very Good Year, and Merchants Have Done Well.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
COLUMBIA, VA., December 28.—The Columbia Milling Company, in charge of Russell E. Willard, purchased last summer a very fine engine for use in the mill, and has been manufacturing flour for four years. The mill is a fine one, and has been manufacturing flour for many years. The wheat being brought here from Goodland, Cumberland and Fuvanna counties.

B. R. Cowherd, for many years a prominent railroad contractor, has just completed an important contract on the Virginia Air Line Road, which is under construction across the upper part of the county. The contract is a large number of his fine mile stables here, which later on will be shipped to Kentucky, where Mr. Cowherd will engage in railroad-building in the early spring.

Russell E. Willard has run with success throughout the year his hand and spoke works, and the shipments of his manufactures being sent to different parts of the country. Only first-class hickory timber is used for the spokes, and the demand is large.

The retail merchants report a good business year. Sales of provisions and other goods have been larger, on account of the railroad camps, along the line of the Virginia Air Line Road, now well under way, but which will not be completed for a year.

ACTIVITY AT BRISTOL

Many Extensions of Enterprises During the Past Year—Work Resumed.

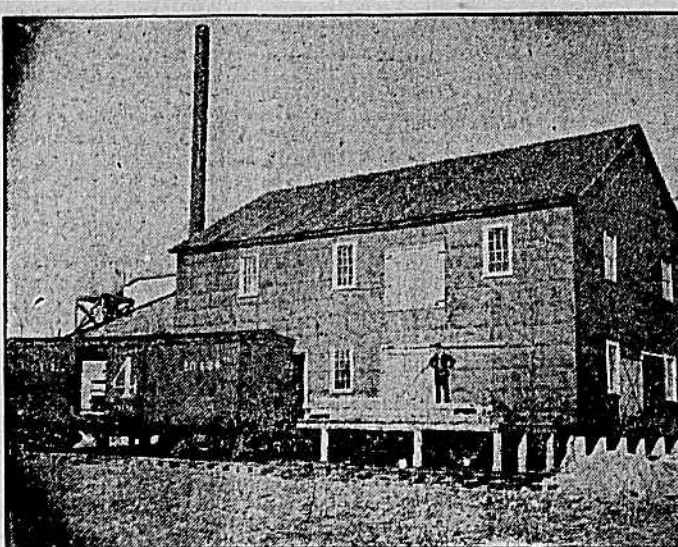
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BRISTOL, VA., December 28.—While not nearly so many residences were built in Bristol in 1907 as in 1906, still the year was a good building year, and a careful estimate, based upon buildings constructed and those now being built, shows that the building operations for the year aggregate nearly \$500,000. This includes a new Y. M. C. A. building, costing \$60,000.

The business of the city for the year amounted to about \$32,000,000, distributed as follows: Iron, coal, coke and lumber, \$9,000,000; manufacturing, \$10,000,000; jobbing, \$3,000,000; miscellaneous, \$5,000,000.

The electric railway has been extended through Bristol, Va. There have been large purchases of timber lands tributary to Bristol. The Virginia Lumber Company, with a daily capacity of 50,000 feet, has been established. The Eagle Overalls plant, with 100 machines, has been established. The Diamond and the Peters Goodwyn ice companies have been consolidated. The B. W. King Company, wholesale, has enlarged its buildings. A new hotel is in process of construction at a cost of \$100,000. The Southern Mining and Manufacturing Company, organized here during the year, with \$75,000 capital, has built a railroad to adjacent properties to develop sand and limestone deposits. The Sullivan County Court appropriated \$5,000 to improve one of the main highways leading out of Bristol. The Bristol and Kingsport Railway Company has been organized to build a road from Bristol to connect with the South and Western Railway at Kingsport. This road will probably be built in 1908.

Ed. P. Jones is installing a knitting mill here at a cost of \$20,000, which will be started February 1st. \$275,000 Bristol, Tenn., has issued \$275,000 in water works bonds, and is bringing a new water supply to the city.

The Bristol Ethyl and Industrial



Planing Mill of Crewe Manufacturing Company.

Company, with a capacity of 200 gallons of denatured alcohol daily, has been organized.

The Twin City Boiler Works, with \$15,000 capital, has been organized. The Mitchell Clothing Company, wholesale, has been organized, with \$100,000 capital, and will begin business next month.

The prospective enterprises for 1908 include a paper box factory, a lantern factory, a concrete block machine factory by the Lowe Block Machine Co. with \$30,000 capital; additions to the Bristol Gas and Electric Company plant, aggregating \$150,000, and a water-power plant.

Despite the currency stringency, prospects for business in general for 1908 seem very encouraging. Railroad work and other kinds of work are to be resumed in the early spring, if not sooner.

BUSY YEAR AT DILLWYN

Tobacco, Timber, Bark and Mercantile Business All Large.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
DILLWYN, VA., December 28.—Dillwyn is situated on the Buckingham branch of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, about eighty miles from Richmond, and is the business center of the county. There is a radius of twenty-five miles of country from which Dillwyn draws her trade.

The merchants report the largest sales during the past year that they have had for any one year for five years. This can be readily accounted for from the fact that the tobacco crops of the county have been above the average, and the farmers disposed of their crops at this place. This is one of the largest markets in the State for railroad ties. There has been a large demand for ties, more than \$35,000 in the past year.

An enormous business is done here in the summer. Something over 100,000 pounds have been handled during the past year. The bark business has been so large for the past months that cars of bark could not be had to serve the demand.

Mr. A. W. Moore reports large lumber sales during the year. He reports that the bark business has been so large for the past months that cars of bark could not be had to serve the demand.

W. A. Moss, wholesale dealer in flour, reports fine sales in carload lots.

DANVILLE DOING WELL

All Enterprises Busy, and Long Strides Made Along Many Lines.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
DANVILLE, VA., December 28.—The past year in Danville has been one of great success from a business and industrial standpoint, and has been marked by rapid strides along many lines. While the number of new plants and large corporations established during the year has been comparatively small, many of the older concerns and plants have branched out and greatly increased both facilities and the output of product. During the past twelve months the Mortlock Manufacturing Company, makers of workmen's garments, have moved into their new factory, a large and modern brick structure. The Noell Anderson Manufacturing Company recently erected and are now occupying a commodious and modern furniture factory; the Danville Knitting Mills on account of increased buildings have moved into larger quarters, and the Virginia Hardware Company has added a large harness factory to their already large business.

Danville has made a remarkably good showing during the financial stringency. The various banking institutions adopted the plan of issuing clearing money certificates, and the New York, Baltimore and other banks began holding back currency. These certificates have been accepted by the merchants, farmers and citizens generally as cash. The banks have been gradually taking up these certificates, and now carry all the currency in the city in cash. The pay-rolls of all of the large manufacturing plants, as well as the business houses, have been in cash for several weeks.

The published statements of the various banking institutions of the city show them to be in as strong financial condition as ever before in their history, some having emerged from the recent financial crisis even stronger than before. The First National Bank

of this city recently increased its capital stock from \$100,000 to \$150,000, and its surplus from \$120,000 to \$200,000.

The city has been holding her reputation as the largest loose leaf tobacco market in the world, as well as being best equipped in every respect for the best handling of the product. The average price paid for tobacco sold at auction on the warehouse floors here during the past twelve months has been \$10.54 per hundred pounds, an increase of \$2.14 per hundred pounds over the same period of last year.

HARD TIMES NOT FELT

Farmville's Business Larger Than Usual and Plants Being Enlarged.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
FARMVILLE, VA., December 28.—The year now drawing to a close has been one of the most prosperous to the people of Farmville, and this section has been the beneficiary of the improvements known for a decade. Great improvements have been made by the municipal government, until to-day Farmville is second to no town of its size in the South.

The stringency of the times reported from every section of the country have not been felt here. While banks of most towns and cities have resorted to issuing scrip for cash, neither of the three banking institutions of Farmville has had to do so, and during the holidays just past the merchants enjoyed an unprecedented volume of trade.

At this time a large wood-working establishment is being erected. The structure is a three-story one, and the manufacturer is expected to give employment to scores of men. A company has announced that it has given an order for the necessary machinery for a twenty-ton ice plant, which will be in working order before the coming summer. The Farmville Manufacturing Company, probably one of the largest plow-handle plants in this country, has enjoyed a remarkably successful year, and now has orders ahead which will keep many employees busy the whole of 1908. The Prince Edward Canning Company, which has done a large business here for the past three years, reports 1907 as its banner year, and arrangements are making for even a larger amount of business during the season of 1908. Many additions have been made to the business houses of Farmville, and not a merchant complains of the year 1907.

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LYNCHBURG'S BEST YEAR

This Statement True of All Commercial and Industrial Lines.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
LYNCHBURG, VA., December 28.—Despite the panicky conditions of the past few months and the consequent stringency in the money market throughout the country, Lynchburg has enjoyed the most prosperous year in her history. This is true of all commercial and industrial lines represented in the city's trade. The Christmas trade was equally as good this year as last, if, indeed, it was not better, although the merchants several weeks ago were pessimistic over the outlook. Collections have been good, especially in the wholesale and jobbing trade, and Lynchburg enters upon the new year hopeful that the worst has been experienced; that the money market will improve shortly, and that the new year will be another record breaker.

One of the best indications of the prosperity enjoyed is the fact that the postoffice revenues during the eleven months of the year show good, healthy gains over the same months in 1906, and December, while the increase will not be quite as large as it would have been with conditions everywhere what they were three months ago, will show a good increase over last December. In short, the figures will show the largest month's business the office has ever enjoyed.

While there have been only a few large plants erected during the year, the building operations in the city and immediate suburbs aggregate an outlay of upwards of \$1,000,000. There were 30 permits issued in the city limits, the cost of these structures being \$300,000, and an estimate of \$300,000 for the suburban building is believed to be conservative.

The condition of the local banks is excellent, but, like many other thriving centres, the volume of currency

has not been large enough for the demands, and the Clearing-House Association has several hundred thousand dollars of scrip in circulation. This scrip is freely for all purposes, and has aided the banks in the transaction of their business. During the year there has been a net gain of \$200,000 in the banking assets, notwithstanding the stringency conditions.

In municipal circles the most important event of the year, and probably the most important in the history of the city, was the installation of the gravity water system, by which a supply of mountain water is brought from the foot hills of the Blue Ridge, twenty-five miles distant, to a 30-inch main, to be distributed from the two old reservoirs through the old mains to the consumer.

On January 1st the city will enlarge its limits, taking in a restricted amount of suburban territory, adding about 6,000 people and \$2,000,000 of taxable values to the city. This will make Lynchburg the third city in size in the State in population, though in area it will be surpassed by the extent of the present limits of Roanoke.

CONFIDENCE IN NORFOLK

Business Men Look Forward to New Year as One of Promise.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
NORFOLK, VA., December 28.—In the opinion of the leading bankers and business men of Norfolk, the worst of the depression incident to the recent financial stringency has been experienced, and they believe 1908, despite the fact that it is a presidential campaign year, usually an off year for business activity, will be fairly prosperous and the people contented.

The business men, however, and real estate dealers of Norfolk, are confident that the new year will be one of great activity; that there will be little of the depression following the close of exportation, and that values will steadily increase. It is declared that despite the fact that so many buildings were erected in anticipation of the exposition, and left vacant at its close, they are being gradually occupied by permanent residents as dwellings or for business purposes. It is believed that another two years will find Norfolk in need of additional buildings to care for demands.

Things that are calculated to help Norfolk during the next twelve months are the completion of the Virginian Railway, giving employment to hundreds; the work on the big coal piers at Sewell's Point, and the establishment of a big ship-building yard by the Cramps, of Philadelphia. Building is active at present, and as soon as spring opens scores of residences are to be built, giving employment to mechanics and laborers.

ORANGE GOES FORWARD

Continues to Grow, Business Good, and Banks are Strong.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
ORANGE, VA., December 28.—The Orange County money market does not seem to have affected by the stringency in the money market. The merchants and heads of the different business enterprises unite in saying that there has been no falling off of trade during the year. In some instances there had been an increase over 1906.

The banks are in a most flourishing condition. Notwithstanding the universal stringency in financial circles, the Orange banks have paid currency right along, and have extended loans to their customers whenever requested. The two banks have half a million dollars on deposit.

For a number of years the town of Orange has maintained a steady and substantial growth. There has been no diminution in that direction during the past year. During the last twelve months several new business enterprises have been inaugurated, and a number of dwelling houses have been erected.

SOUTH BOSTON BOOMING

More Building Than Ever, Merchants and Manufacturers Doing Well.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
SOUTH BOSTON, December 28.—Despite her big fire last March and the money stringency, South Boston has gone ahead by leaps and bounds during 1907. Never before in the history of the town has there been such prosperity in the way of building and improvements. During the past year a number of large enterprises have completed their large and modern shirt factory, the Bank of South Boston, a new hotel, and a new school building, two new warehouses, several prizes, fifteen or twenty new stores, to say nothing of a host of smaller enterprises. The handsome new Garland Hotel was finished and threw its doors open to the public last October. The manufacturing and retail merchants never enjoyed a larger patronage.

The tobacco business has been fine, and the warehousemen are selling more tobacco than ever before, with much larger margins than in previous years. The banks have all done an excellent business, and are in a flourishing condition. In a word, it has been a remarkably prosperous year, and everybody seems delighted over the success of their bustling little town. We are expecting a greater thing for 1908. We already have in course of construction a magnificent, handsome and modern public school building. The school will be completed by the first of spring. Several large storage warehouses are contemplated, as well as the enlargement of the tobacco people will in many ways increase their facilities for handling the weed, and the new buildings are being erected at an early date. The new water power, when harnessed as proposed, will give employment to 600,000 population. South Boston is spending many thousands of dollars in the improvement of her streets, sewerage and sidewalks, as well as other improvements.

The general health of the community has been fine, but how could it be otherwise with such an abundance of the purest kind of air and splendid little water? South Boston backs any enterprise that has the confidence of its own promoters, and wishes to be the best little (largest) city in Southside Virginia.

PROGRESS AT CLIFTON FORGE

Merchants and Manufacturers All Doing Prosperous Business.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
CLIFTON FORGE, December 28.—During the year now drawing to a close this city kept abreast of the times and made many notable advances in the business point of view. No new enterprises of note were started, but those already in operation made money, and added improvements necessary to increase their output. Clifton Forge is largely a railroad centre, it being at the end of three important divisions of the Chesapeake and Ohio system. The monthly payroll of this great corporation here reaches nearly \$100,000.

A few years ago this city had only one small ice plant, now it has three, all of which will be in operation the coming summer. Until a short time ago there was only one electric light plant, there are now two, one company furnishing the city and its residents with lights and the other furnishing lights for the railway, the hotel, Y. M. C. A.

and the hospital. The Adams Express Company has erected a new office and warehouse; the Clifton Forge Machine and Foundry Company has steadily grown from a small industry to one of great proportions, employing several skilled workmen, and occupying a large space of ground with its buildings.

The Christian Church congregation have completed a handsome brick house of worship at a cost of \$10,000, and the Presbyterians are now building a \$15,000 structure. All of the streets of the city have granite sidewalks while the principal streets have been macadamized at a cost of \$50,000. The two banks have increased their deposits by several thousand dollars each, and within the year there has not been a single failure of any consequence.

On the first of last May the saloons of the city were closed by a vote of the people, whereby about \$4,000 in revenue was lost to the city, but the last statement of the city treasurer shows the financial condition of the municipality to be in a healthy state, notwithstanding this loss.

There has been an increase in the receipts of the post-office, the community as a whole is optimistic, and is looking forward to still greater things in 1908. So far the effects of the money stringency has not been felt here, and everything is going ahead as though nothing had happened. In the coming year several new store buildings will be erected and several new residences will be built, as was the case this year. The city treasurer shows the financial condition of the municipality to be in a healthy state, notwithstanding this loss.

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LOUISA HAS DONE WELL

Merchants Report Prosperous Year, and the Outlook Encouraging.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
LOUISA, VA., December 28.—Louisa has had an unusually prosperous year, the best business year in the history of the town—and has bright prospects ahead for the coming year. The bulk of the sales of the merchants here have been for cash; and the majority of the farmers now pay in cash, or check, showing increased prosperity generally.

A personal interview with the heads of twenty leading business houses this morning elicited the information that the past year has been a very good one for them, and that their prospects are good for the coming year.

The past year has seen the postoffice here raised from fourth to third class. The Bank of Louisa, the best business in its history, as shown by the report to the Corporation Commission.

Several new firms and a bank have been organized, with very encouraging outlook and good business so far. The new high school building has been completed, a number of residences have been erected, and others are planned for the coming year.

BUSY AT BLACKSBURG

Year Now Ending One of the Best in the Town's History.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BLACKSBURG, VA., December 28.—During the year 1907 business in Blacksburg has been excellent, and there has been steady improvement along all lines. Work has been plentiful and wages high; the merchants have done a fine trade, and the Christmas rush was greater than ever before. Contractors and carpenters have had more work than they could do, and six new residences have been either entirely completed, or are in such a stage that with a month of good weather they can be made ready for occupancy. The town has in the last two months laid about 3,000 feet of new brick and concrete sidewalk, running along the entire length of Main Street, on the east side, and extending on side streets to the several churches and the public school building. There is a constant demand for laborers of all kinds, and the close of the year has not made the family in want unless it be from choice.

Blacksburg somewhat resembles Washington in that it is a salaried town. The Virginia Polytechnic Institute has a monthly salary of \$100,000, not only the fifty members of the faculty and the working students receive their salaries, but on the pay roll also are many laborers employed about the grounds and buildings, and the men on the farm, who get their checks with unfailing regularity. Included also are the many farmers who furnish milk to the creamery, those who furnish certain supplies to the dining hall, and the men who do the laundry, and other departments of the institute. Store bills are collectable, as a rule, one day after college "pay day," and this goes far towards keeping money in circulation, and the men of the town, who get their